

DECLARATION

OF THE

LORDS and COMMONS

Assembled in

PARLIAMENT:

Concerning the Kings Majesty.

And His Majesties Gracious Message and
Propositions, sent from the Isle of Wyght, for settle-
ing of the Church and Kingdome, and paying of
the ARMY.

With His Majesties desire to come to London to the
PARLIAMENT.

Also a Letter from the Scots Commissioners to the Parlia-
ment concerning the Kings Majesty.

Novemb. 20. 1647. *Imprimatur* Gilb. Mabbott.



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A
DECLARATION

Of the Lords and Commons Assembled in
Parliament concerning the Kings
Majesty.

THE Lords and Commons Assembled in
Parliament doe declare that the King of
England for the time being, is bound in
Justice, and by the duty of His Office, to give
His assent to all such lawes, as by the Lords
and Commons in Parliament shall be adjud-
ged to be for the good of the Kingdome and
by them tendered to Him for his assent.

Vera Copia
Novemb. 20. 1647.



Right Honourable,

WE are very sorry, that occasion is so oft given us to complain that we receive no answer to the Papers delivered in by us to the Honourable Houses; And that in all desires made unto us, even in matters of common interest and greatest consequence, a short time is limited, and peremptorily prescribed unto us. And we doe earnestly desire the Houses to consider, that it is not according to the custome which hath been formerly observed; Nor is it the right way to continue a good understanding between the Kingdomes.

Upon the fifth of this instant, we wrote a letter to both Houses, to which we againe desired an Answer upon the eleventh, when the Propositions were communicated unto us but we have yet received no answer at all; and hearing upon the twelfth, that his Majesty was gone from *Hampton-Court*, we did then desire to understand from the Honourable Houses the certainty thereof, conceiving it very improper for us to take into consideration the sending of Propositions to his Majesty, untill we knew the certainty of his departure from *Hampton-Court*; And whither he was gone.

Yesterday night late (and no sooner) we received the copy of a letter from his Majesty, dated at *Hampton-Court* the 11. of this Instant, and directed to the Speaker of the House of Peeres to be communicated unto the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of *England*, and the Commissioners of the Parliament of *Scotland*, &c. But no intimation was made unto us whither his Majesty is gone, in what condition he is, or how any address may be made unto him: All which are most necessary to be made knowne unto us, before we can say any thing of Propositions to be sent unto the King.

Yet neverthelesse, by order from both Houses, it is signified to us, that they have resolved to send Propositions upon Munday next to his Majesty, without allowing us any competent time to consider of the same, though (as upon the short view, that we have taken, we do perceive) there be very many and great alterations, and omissions of, and additions to the former Propositions, agreed on by both Kingdomes, and those alterations principally in matters of joynt interest.

We have perused his Majesties letter from *Hampton-Court*, and doe thinke that terrors being suggested to him, and dangers threatned to his person, he had just cause to looke to his owne safety and preservation: And here we cannot but with much griefe regard his Majesties hard usage, when we call to minde how hee was violently carried away from *Holmby* by a party of the Army, and is now forced to flye from amongst them for preservation of his life.

Certainly the Houses of Parliament cannot thinke, but the Kingdome of *Scotland* is highly concerned in the safety of his Majesties person, and in duty bound to use their best endeavours to prevent his ruine. And we alio hope therein to have the concurrence of the Honorable Houses.

It is his Majesties own desire in his late Message, that he may be heard with freedome, honour and safety.

We do therefore (according to our former paper of the fifth instant) earnestly desire and insist that (after so many various tossings up and downe from place to place, to the great hazard of his person, and retardment of the settling of a happy peace) his Majesty may be invited to come to *London* in safety, honour, and freedome: And neither hee nor his Parliament may bee environed with Armies, to the end his Concessions, and their Consultations, being voluntary and free, all indifferences may be ended by a personall Treaty with his Majesty, which in our judgement, is the most probable way, with hope of successe, to settle Religion, and a lasting peace. We are,

Your Lordships humble servants,
Worcester-house the 17. of *Novemb.* 1647.
London, *Lauderdail,* *Charles Erskine,*
Hugh Kennedy, *Robert Barclay.*

His Majesty is confident that before this time, His two Houses of Parliament have received the Message which he left behinde him at *Hampton Court* the eleventh of this Moneth, by which they will have understood the reasons which enforced him to goe from thence, as likewise his constant endeavours, for the settling of a safe and well-grounded Peace wheresoever he should be; And being now in a place, where he conceives himself to be at much more freedome and security then formerly; He thinks it necessary (not onely for making good of his own professions, but also for the speedy procuring of a Peace in these languishing and distressed Kingdomes) at this time to offer such grounds to his two Houses for
that

that effect; which upon due examination of all Interests, may best conduce thereunto.

And because Religion in the best and chiefest foundation of Peace, his Majesty will begin with that particular.

That for the abolishing Arch-bishops, Bishops, &c. His Majesty cleerly professeth, that he cannot give his consent thereunto, both in relation as He is a Christian, and a King: For the first, He avows that he is satisfied in his Judgement, that this order was placed in the Church by the Apostles themselves; and ever since their time, hath continued in all Christian Churches throughout the world; until this last century of yeares; And in this Church in all times of Change and Reformation, it hath been upheld by the wisdom of his Ancestors, as the great preserver of Doctrine, Discipline, and Order in the service of God. As a King at his Coronation, hee hath not onely taken a Solemne Oath, to maintain this Order, but his Majesty and his Predecessors in their confirmations of the Great Charter, have inseparably woven the right of the Church into the Liberties of the rest of their Subjects: And yet he is willing, it be provided that the particular Bishops performe the severall duties of their Callings, both by their personall residence and frequent Preachings in their Diocesses, as also that they exercise no act of Jurisdiction or Ordination, without the consent of their Presbyters; And will consent, that their Powers in all things be so limited, that they be not grievous to tender Consciences: Wherefore, since his Majesty is willing to give ease to the Consciences of others, he sees no reason why he alone, and those of his Judgement, should be pressed to a violation of theirs. Nor can his Majesty consent to the Alienation of Church Lands, because it cannot be denyed to be a sort of the highest Sacrilege; as also, that it subverts the intentions of many Donors, who have laid a heavy curse upon all such profane violations, which his Majesty is very unwilling to undergoe; And besides the matter of Conscience, his Majesty beleeves it to be a prejudice to the publick good, many of his Subjects having the benefit of leasing Leases at much easier Rates, then if those possessions were in the hands of private men; not omitting the discouragement, which it will be to all learning and industry, when such eminent rewards shall be taken away, which now lie open to the Children of meanest Persons. Yet his Majesty considering the great present distempers concerning Church-Discipline, and that the Presbyterian Government is now in practice, his Majesty to eschew confusion as much as may be, and for the satisfaction of his two Houses, is content that the said Government bee legally permitted to stand in the same condition it now is for three years, Provided, that his Majesty, and those of his judgement (or any other who cannot in conscience

ence submit thereunto) be not obliged to comply with Presbyteriall Government, but have free practice of their own Profession, without receiving any prejudice thereby; and that a free consultation and debate be had with the Divines at *Westminster*, (twenty of his Majesties nomination being added unto them) whereby it may be determined by his Majesty and the two Houses, how the Church-government after the said time shall be settled, (or sooner if differences may be agreed) as is most agreeable to the Word of God; with full liberty to all those who shall differ upon conscientious grounds from that settlement; Always provided, that nothing aforesaid be understood to tolerate those of the Popish Profession, nor the exempting of any Popish Recusant from the penalties of the Laws, or to tolerate the publique profession of Atheisme or Blasphemy, contrary to the Doctrine of the Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, they having been received by, and had in reverence of, all the Christian Churches; and more particularly by this of *England*, ever since the Reformation.

Next, the *Militia* being that right, which is inseparably and undoubtedly inherent in the Crowne, by the Lawes of this Nation, and that which former Parliaments, as likewise this, hath acknowledged so to be His Majesty cannot so much wrong that trust which the Laws of God and this Land hath annexed to the Crown for the protection & security of his People, as to divide himself and Successors of the power of the Sword: yet to give an infallible evidence of his desire to secure the performance of such agreements as shall be made in order to peace His Majesty will consent to an Act of Parliament, that the whole power of the *Militia* both by Sea and Land, for and during his whole Reigne, shall be ordered and disposed by his two Houses of Parliament, or by such persons as they shall appoint, with powers limited for suppressing of Forces within this Kingdome, to the disturbance of the publike Peace, and against foreign Invasion; and that they shall have power during his said Reigne, to raise moneyes for the purposes aforesaid; and that neither His Majesty that now is, or any other (by any authority derived onely from him) shall execute any of the said Powers during His Majesties said Reigne, but such as shall act by consent and approbation of the two Houses of Parliament. Nevertheless His Majesty intends that all Patents, Commissions, and other Acts concerning the *Militia*, be made and acted as formerly; and that after His Majesties Reigne, all the power of the *Militia* shall returne entirely to the Crown, as it was in the times of Queen Elizabeth, and King James of blessed memory.

After this head of the *Militia*, the consideration of the Arreares due to

to the Army is not improper to follow for the payment whereof, and the ease of his People, His Majesty is willing to concur in any thing that can be done without the violation of his Conscience and Honour. Wherefore if his two Houses shall consent to remit unto him such benefit out of Sequestrations from Michaelmas last, and out of Compositions that shall be made before the concluding of the peace, and the Arrears of such as have been already made, the assistance of the Clergy, and the Arrears of such Rents of his owne Revenue as his two Houses shall not have received before the concluding of the Peace, His Majesty will undertake within the space of eighteen Moneths, the payment of foure hundred thousand pounds for the satisfaction of the Army.

And if those means shall not be sufficient His Majesty intends to give way to the sale of Forrest Lands for that purpose, this being the Publique debt which in His Majesties judgement is first to be satisfied; & for other publick debts already contracted upon Church Lands or any other Engagements, His Majesty will give His consent to such Act or Acts for raising of monies for payment thereof as both Houses shall hereafter agree upon, so as they be equally laid, whereby his people (already too heavily burthened by these late distempers) may have no more pressures upon them then this absolute necessity requires: And for the further securing of all teares, His Majesty will consent, that an Act of Parliament be passed, for the disposing of the great Offices of State, and nameing of Privie Counsellors for the whole Terme of His raigne by the two Houses of Parliament, their Powers and Commissions being taken from His Majesty, and after to returne to the Crowne, as is exprest in the Article of the *Militia*. For the Court of Wards and Liveries, His Majesty very well knowes the consequence of taking that away, by turning of all Tenures into common Soccage, as well in point of Revenue to the Crown, as in the Protection of many of His Subjects being Infants. Nevertheless if the continuance thereof seeme grievous to His Subjects, rather then hee will faile on His part in giving satisfaction, he will consent to an Act for taking of it away so as a full recompence be settled upon His Majesty and His Successors in perpetuity, and that the Arrears now due be reserved unto him towards the payment of the Arrears of the Army.

And that the memory of these late distractions may be wholly wiped away, His Majesty will consent to an Act of Parliament for the suppressing and making null of al Oathes, Declarations and Proclamations against both or either House of Parliament, and of all Indictments and other proceedings against any persons for adhering unto them; and His Majesty proposeth,

Let, as the best expedient to take away all seeds of future differences: that there be an Act of Oblivion to all His Subjects.

As for Ireland, the Cessation there is long since determined, but for the future (all other things being fully agreed) His Majesty will give full satisfaction to His Houses concerning that Kingdome.

And although His Majesty cannot in honour and justice to avoid all His owne Grants and Acts past under His Great Seale since the two and twentieth of May 1642. or to the confirming of all the Acts and Grants passed under that made by the two Houses, yet His Majesty is confident, that upon perusall of particulars, He shall give full satisfaction to His two Houses to what may be reasonably desired in that particular.

And now His Majesty conceives that by these His offers (which He is ready to make good upon the settlement of a Peace) He hath clearly manifested His intentions to give full security and satisfaction to all Interests, for what can justly be desired in order to the future happinesse of His People. And for the perfecting of these concessions, as also for such other things as may be proposed by the two Houses, and for such just and reasonable demands as His Majesty shall finde necessary to propose on His part, He earnestly desires a personall Treaty at London with His two Houses, in Honour, Freedome and Safety, it being in His judgement the most proper and indeed onely meanes to a firme and settled Peace, and impossible without it to reconcile former, or a void future mis-understandings.

All these things being by Treaty perfected, His Majesty beleives His two Houses will thinke it reasonable, that the Proposals of the Army concerning the Succession of Parliaments and their due Elections, should be taken into consideration.

As for what concernes the Kingdome of Scotland, His Majesty will verily readily apply Himselfe to give all reasonable satisfaction, when the desires of the two Houses of Parliament on their behalfe, or of the Commissioners of that Kingdom, or of both joyned together, shall be made known unto Him.

For the Speaker of the Lords House pro tempore, to be communicated to the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of England at Westminster, and the Commissioners of the Parliament of Scotland.

Novem. 16. CHARLES REX.

FINIS.

